Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY

Reserve

BOOK NUMBER 1.9
Ec752Ref

Ref

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington, D. C.
January, 1932

Reserve

REFERENCES ON THE MATERIALS FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

Compiled by Everett E. Edwards, Associate Agricultural Economist,
Division of Statistical and Historical Research

The increasing interest in agricultural history as a field of research has led to the compilation of this annotated bibliography on the materials and their collection, the scope and the significance of American agricultural history. A considerable number of the items here listed are included in the publication entitled "A Bibliography of the History of Agriculture in the United States," issued by the United States Department of Agriculture as its Miscellaneous Publication No. 84 (Washington, 1930). A printed version of this list appears in Agricultural History, 6:38-43 (January, 1932). Suggestions of pertinent additions will be appreciated.

Balmer, Frank E.
The farmer and Minnesota history. Minnesota History, 7:199-217 (September, 1926).
This paper was prepared for presentation at Castle Rock, Minnesota, on June 16, 1926, as a feature of the fifth annual "historic tour" of the Minnesota Historical Society.
See also the paragraph on Mr. Balmer's efforts to help the county agricultural agents of Minnesota acquire historical backgrounds of their respective communities, in Minnesota History, 6:198 (June, 1925).
See also the information given below under the heading Minnesota Agricultural History and Records.

Beard, Charles A.
Culture and agriculture. Saturday Review of Literature, 5 (13): 272-273 (October 20, 1928).
An essay on what has been termed "the agrarian thesis."

Bruce, Kathleen.
Materials for Virginia agricultural history. Agricultural History, 4:10-14 (January, 1930).
This paper was presented as part of a symposium on Materials for Southern Agricultural History at the luncheon tendered by the University of North Carolina to members of the Agricultural History Society and guests at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on December 31, 1929. See also the items by J. G. de R. Hamilton and C. W. Ramsdell.

Carrier, Lyman.

The beginnings of agriculture in America. New York, McGraw-Hill book co., 1925. 323 p., illus.

In this connection, see especially ch. 1, Value of Agricultural History, p. 1-12. This chapter has paragraphs on the following topics: beginnings of life; theory of evolution; effects of environment on species; determination of plant history; biological evidence; ancient deposits; historical evidence; philological evidence; origin of food plants; primitive agriculture; plant culture; most food plants domesticated by savages; food of the Lake Dwellers; domestication of animals; early civilizations in dry climates; accumulations of wealth; food essential; conditions favoring development of civilization; great civilized zone; importance of agriculture; division of labor; rural class unappreciated.

Davis, LeRoy G.

The study of pioneer life: a communication. Minnesota History, 10:430-433 (December, 1929).

A criticism of descriptions of pioneer life, especially that of the grasshopper plagues in Ole Edvart Rølvaag's Giants in the Earth; A Saga of the Prairie (New York, Harper & Bros., 1927).

See also "The Study of Pioneer Life; Two Replies to Mr. Davis," one by Einar Haugen, the other by J. H. Kloystad, in Minnesota History, 11:63-74 (March, 1930). Also the letter by John Talman under the heading "The Study of Pioneer Life: A Communication," in Minnesota History, 11:185-187 (June, 1930).

[Edwards, Everett E.]

Agricultural history in Texas. Agricultural History, 5:129-130 (July, 1931).

A note on the steps which are being taken under the auspices of the Texas Agricultural Workers Association and as a result of the foresight and guidance of T. C. Richardson, to preserve the materials for the agricultural history of Texas.

See also the item entitled "Promotes Farm Library; Texas to Preserve its Agricultural Records," in the New York Times, May 3, 1931, sect. 3, p. 2.

Hamilton, J. G. de Roulhac.

Agricultural history materials and their collection. Agricultural History, 4:14-18 (January, 1930).

This paper was given as part of a symposium on Materials for Southern Agricultural History at the luncheon tendered by the University of North Carolina to members of the Agricultural History Society and guests at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on December 31, 1929. See also the items by K. Bruce and C. W. Ramsdell.

Professor Hamilton's comments are based on his experience in collecting such materials as a part of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina. His work in preserving materials for North Carolina history is briefly summarized by Everett E. Edwards in Agricultural History, 2:159 (July, 1928).

See also Professor Hamilton's article entitled "The South's Place in American History; A Serious Effort to Establish It," in the Baltimore Sun, March 4, 1928, magazine section, p. 11, 12, also available as a reprint with the title "A National Southern Collection at the University of North Carolina." Also his article on "The Preservation of North Carolina History," in the North Carolina Historical Review, 4:3-21 (January, 1927).

Kelsey, Rayner Wickersham.

Description and travel as source material for the history of early agriculture in Pennsylvania. American Historical Association Annual Report, 1920:283-292.

Also in the Agricultural History Society Papers, 3:283-292 (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1925).

A paper presented before the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association at New Haven on December 30, 1922.

———.

Possibilities of intensive research in agricultural history. American Historical Association Annual Report (1919) 1:375-383.

Also in the Agricultural History Society Papers, 2:375-383 (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1923).

This paper, a brief inquiry into the intensive as contrasted with the extensive study of agricultural history, was presented before the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association at Cleveland on December 29, 1919. The subject is considered under the following headings: 1, Introduction; 2, Method; 3, Materials (Secondary Works; Printed Sources; Manuscript Sources); 4, Results.

[Legge, Mrs. Katherine B.]

The importance of farm and general store account books in business history. Business Historical Society Bulletin, 5 (2):12-14 (February, 1931).

A statement, equally applicable to agricultural history, of the importance of farm and general store account books to business history, and an account of the collection which is being developed by the Business Historical Society at the George F. Baker Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Soldiers Field, Boston, Massachusetts.

For a similar statement see also the note by Everett E. Edwards entitled "Activities of the Business Historical Society" in Agricultural History, 5:182-184 (October, 1931).

Lloyd, W. A.

The relation of the county farm bureau and the county agent to the collection of historical data relating to agriculture. Mississippi Valley Historical Association Proceedings (1917-18) 9:441-449 (i. e., Mississippi Valley Historical Review, extra no., May, 1919).

A paper presented at a session of the eleventh annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in St. Paul and Minneapolis, May 9-11, 1918. At this time the author was in charge of the county agent work of the States relations service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

[Minnesota agricultural history and records.] Minnesota History, 11: 109 (March, 1930).

A brief note stating that plans have been announced for the "establishment of a museum for agricultural history and records on the campus of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota."

See also the note on the Minnesota Historical Society's exhibit at the annual State fair for 1930 which centered about the theme of the farmer in Minnesota history, in Minnesota History, 11:442 (December, 1930).

These notes are summarized by Everett E. Edwards under the caption "Agricultural History in Minnesota," in Agricultural History, 5:129 (July, 1931).

See also the information given above in connection with the item by F. E. Balmer.

Nevins, Allan.

Some neglected aspects of settler life. Indiana History Bulletin, 6 (extra no. 2):113-127 (May, 1929).

An address presented at the annual dinner of the Society of Indiana Pioneers at Indianapolis, on December 8, 1928, as part of the tenth annual Indiana History Conference.

Commented on in Minnesota History 10:341-343 (September, 1929).

The author holds that "a great many important topics on early settler life are and will remain mysteries to city dwellers of today until more writing of a careful, thorough, and yet easily mastered nature is done." He raises questions on the following topics: the elements of population; the log cabin; the location of the settler; the food of the settler; settler ailments; speech.

Ramsdell, Charles W.

Materials for research in the agricultural history of the Confederacy. Agricultural History, 4:18-22 (January, 1930).

This paper was presented as part of a symposium on Materials for Southern Agricultural History at the luncheon tendered by the University of North Carolina to members of the Agricultural History Society and guests at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on December 31, 1929. See also the items by L. Bruce and J. G. de R. Hamilton.

Schafer, Joseph.

A rural life survey of a western state. The Trans-Mississippi West (Boulder, Univ. Colorado, 1930), edited by James F. Willard and Colin B. Goodykoontz, p. 291-308.

A mature statement of the quest in Wisconsin "for a group of sources of universal availability and applicability which might serve to establish a significant outline of the history of any agricultural area in the state."

See also the same author's "The Wisconsin Domesday Book in Agricultural History," in the American Historical Association Annual Report, 1921:220-221. It is an abstract of a paper presented before the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association in St. Louis, on December 28, 1921. "The Wisconsin Domesday Book has been described as a plan by which the history of local communities in Wisconsin, and first of all rural communities, shall be studied intensively." Utilization of the methods advocated will do much toward remedying the deficit in exact knowledge of the beginnings of rural life. "The records used, and the process of study of rural towns, make possible certain generalizations about the agricultural history of Wisconsin." Therein lies the significance of this project and its methods for agricultural historians.

Supplement with Dr. Schafer's article on "The Wisconsin Domesday Book," in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, 4:61-74 (September, 1920), in which he suggests "a plan for a future great history of Wisconsin which should reach very much further down in the social life of the state than any history that has yet been produced. The aim would be . . . to gather such abundant materials about our Wisconsin population as would enable us ultimately to point the influence upon Wisconsin history of even very local and seemingly humble individuals who have contributed ideas or developed processes that helped forward the civilization of the state." The domesday book is to consist of a plat book or atlas, giving the names of early settlers and lands occupied by them, with accompanying text. See also the same author's address on "The Microscopic Method Applied to History," read at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, in St. Paul, on January 17, 1921, and printed in the Minnesota History Bulletin, 4:3-20 (February-May,1921).

See also Dr. Schafer's notes on "Co-operation between the State Historical Society and Local Societies," in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, 4:200-207 (December, 1920), especially the paragraphs under the captions: a method for local history study; data about the land and the people; and the study of local progress. See also his essay on "Documenting Local History," in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, 5; 142-159 (December, 1921), in which he illustrates by a study of the town of Newton the possibilities of the methods suggested in the above articles.

The circular by Dr. Schafer called Schedule for the Study of Local History of Wisconsin Rural Towns (Madison, State Hist. Soc. Wis., 1926. 6 p.) indicates one of the ways the State Historical Society of Wisconsin is gathering historical material on rural Wisconsin.

The mimeographed circular on the Teachers' Pictorial Survey of Rural Wisconsin a Century after the Black Hawk War, sponsored by the State Historical Society in consultation with the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Wisconsin Journal of Education affords information on a project which will give pictorial data invaluable to agricultural historians.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard.

The economic history of American agriculture. Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of American Agriculture (Rev. ed. Philadelphia, McKinley Publishing Co., 1923), p. 9-26.

This valuable summary of the scope and significance of American agricultural history is reprinted in L. B. Schmidt and E. D. Ross, Readings in the Economic History of American Agriculture (New York, Macmillan Co., 1925), p. 16-27. It is an adaptation of Professor Schmidt's paper on "The Economic History of American Agriculture as a Field for Study," read at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, D. C., in December, 1915, and printed in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 3:39-49 (June, 1916). An abstract of this paper is printed under the title, "Agriculture as a Field for Historical Research," in the American Historical Association Annual Report, 1920:161-162. Also an adaptation of the same author's article on "An Unworked Field of Mississippi Valley History," in the Iowa Journal of History and Politics, 21:94-111 (January, 1923). Another version is given in the same author's article on "The Economical History of American Agriculture as a Field for Study," in the Historical Outlook, 10:8-12 (January, 1919).

The following are among the topics considered: fundamental significance of the economic history of American agriculture; some problems in the economic history of American agriculture,- the history of the public lands, the history of leadin agricultural industries, the history of agriculture in the various States, the history of the transportation and marketing of agricultural products, the history of farmers' organizations, the history of agricultural education, the biographie of leading men who have contributed to the advancement of agriculture; indications of an awakening interest in agricultural history,- agriculture as the leading occupation; relation of the economic history of agriculture to the political and constitutional history of the United States; the economic history of agriculture as a necessary background for the development of a sound and farsighted rural economy; the economic history of agriculture as part of a well-balanced history of the nation.

[Sheldon, Lynn.]

The farmer and local history. Minnesota History, 6:21-22 (March, 1925)

A brief summary of a talk on the value of local history to farmers by the county agricultural agent of Redwood Falls County, Minnesota.

See also the paragraph on the efforts of F. E. Balmer to help the county agricultural agents of Minnesota acquire the historical background of their respective communities, in Minnesota History, 6:198 (June, 1925).

Stone, Alfred Holt.

Some problems of southern economic history. American Historical Review, 13:779-797 (July, 1908).

Suggestions of certain lines of thought which have occurred to the author in connection with a study of the relative influence of the institution of slavery, the negro, the white man, and physiography as factors in the economic life of the Southern States.

This paper is reprinted in L. B. Schmidt and E. D. Ross, Readings in the Economic History of American Agriculture (New York, Macmillan Co., 1925), p. 274-292.

Supplement with Ulrich Bonnel Phillips's article on "The Central Theme of Southern History," in the American Historical Review, 34:30-43 (October, 1928), and Avery O. Craven's article on "The South in American History," in the Historical Outlook, 21:105-109 (March, 1930).

Taylor, Raymond G.

Some sources for Mississippi Valley agricultural history. Mississippi Valley Historical Review, 7:142-145 (September, 1920).

Trimble, William Joseph.

The agrarian history of the United States as a subject for research. History Teacher's Magazine, 6:135-137 (May, 1915).

A revision of a paper read before the joint meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and the American Historical Association at Chicago, on December 30, 1914 and printed with the same title in the Mississippi Valley Historical Association Proceedings (1914-15) 8:81-92.